

WESTERN DIAMONDBACK RATTLESNAKE IN SOUTHERN NEVADA: A CORRECTION AND COMMENTS

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ABSTRACT.— Reports of the occurrence of *Crotalus atrox* Baird & Girard from Nevada are reviewed. There is no evidence to support the occurrence of this species in Nevada.

Andersen and Emmerson (1970, Great Basin Nat. 30:107) reported the taking of a single specimen of western diamondback rattlesnake, *Crotalus atrox* Baird & Girard, from west of the Colorado River in Clark County, Nevada.

The snout-vent length was erroneously reported as "163 mm," permitting the inference that a breeding population may have been present in the Searchlight area, resulting in the collection of a neonate. In fact, the specimen (Univ. of Nevada, Las Vegas R5118) was an adult male with a snout-vent length of 1054 millimeters.

During the years subsequent to the above-cited report, and as recently as 1979, a number of representations were made to me that "diamondbacks" had been taken or seen in Clark County. Inasmuch as no one making the claims produced a specimen of *C. atrox*, nor was any report offered by a competent observer, I concluded that the reports were fictitious or were based upon sightings of *C. mitchelli* or *scutulatus*. I suggest, therefore, that caution be exercised in considering *Crotalus atrox* as part of the Clark County, Nevada, herpetofauna, at least until a series of specimens is at hand.

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